

Resolution in Solidarity with Durham's LGBTQ+ Community

WHEREAS, hate crimes targeting LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, & queer) people are on the rise; and

WHEREAS, mass shootings by domestic terrorists at LGBTQ+ gathering spaces such as Club Q and Pulse have created fear and trauma in LGBTQ+ communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, harassment targeting drag shows and drag performers have increased dramatically over the last several years, with such protests being held in several locations in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, there has been a sharp increase in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in the US, with 233 anti-LGBTQ+ bills filed in state legislatures across the country in January of 2023 alone; and

WHEREAS, a copycat version of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill has been filed in the NC Senate this session (SB49) which would prohibit discussion of LGBTQ+ identity in most elementary school classrooms and forcibly out LGBTQ+ students to their parents; and

WHEREAS, a bill has been filed in the NC House this session (HB43) that would prohibit gender-affirming healthcare including hormone treatment, puberty blockers, and surgery for people under 18; and

WHEREAS, access to safe, affirming spaces and gender-affirming healthcare is critical for the mental and physical health of LGBTQ+ people and teens in particular, who are four times more likely to consider suicide than their cisgender and heterosexual peers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham City Council affirms the full civil and human rights of our LGBTQ+ community members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we condemn all violence, hatred, and discrimination against LGBTQ+ people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we stand in opposition to HB43, SB49, and all legislation that erodes the safety, health, civil rights, human rights, and bodily autonomy of LGBTQ+ people, including minors.